

lawful means will not themselves actually hand over the corrupt reward; but if they act through agents, however indirectly, they are equally guilty with those who hand over the vile stipend for which the legal action is to be done. The statute of this State provides as to accessories: "It was agreed on all hands Monday that the remarks of this able Judge were calculated not only to put the December grand jury on their mettle to probe into wrong doing in this city, but will also serve to open the eyes of the honest members of the Illinois Legislature and encourage them to press their resolution for an investigation to a speedy passage next month at Springfield, and thus enable the taxpayers of Illinois to learn why, and for what reasons, the men they sent to the Legislature passed the gas bills, railway consolidation and the warehouse bills."

Lively times are ahead for the men who bribed the Legislature to pass the notorious elevator and warehouse bill. The feeling of indignation over the matter on the Board of Trade still knows no bounds.

A local detective agency, which has been at work on the matter, has secured evidence sufficient to send three men to the penitentiary sure, and probably two others.

The Eagle has secured affidavits from several members of the Legislature directly involving well-known Chicagoans who were in Springfield and who bought up that body for the elevator bill.

Twelve other affidavits are in the hands of responsible parties, and things will soon be ripe for action. A big fund will be raised on the Board of Trade to prosecute the offenders, and along about spring we will lose a few of our prominent citizens, whose ability as lobbyists has gotten them into trouble.

Several copies of the report of the Board of Trade Committee of 1897, with reference to the warehouse bill, are extant. The report is scathing in its tone and language and will prove of great value to a legislative investigating committee when appointed.

One of the big Chicago daily papers, speaking of the matter after the Legislature adjourned, in showing the temper of the Board of Trade in relation to the bill, said: "At the weekly meeting of the directors of the Board of Trade yesterday afternoon, the report of the legislative committee sent to Springfield to aid in stopping the passage of the warehouse bill, which was made a law by the recent Legislature, was adopted. The report, which consisted of twenty typewritten pages, and took nearly an hour to read, teems with hard words about the legislators at Springfield."

"So disgusted were the representatives of the Board of Trade that they return, they say, 'Thoroughly convinced that we are as a nation permitting and tolerating practices in our legislative bodies that mean the end of all things American.' The Board of Trade men do not hesitate to say in their report, that the Legislature at Springfield is a disgrace to the State. The report praises the few honest Representatives, but says 'the great majority is hopelessly and helplessly bound by individual interests and party abuses.'"

"When your committee first reached Springfield," says the report, "it found the sentiment of both houses strongly opposed to the warehouse bill. An effort to bring up the bill April 20 resulted in a miserable failure. However, May 3, a lawyer, known to represent the Armour interests, appeared on the ground. Sentiment changed rapidly as the result of short interviews between this person and various Senators."

While not openly accusing the members of the Legislature of accepting bribes, the report from beginning to end hints and insinuates that such was the case.

It denounces strongly those members who pose before the public as opposing Yerkes, in the following words: "Another hypocritical class which deserves all the censure that an outraged community can bestow upon them are the 'popular set' members of the Legislature, who pose as being opposed to Yerkes and his street car lines." The reason for this attack is found when the report says these men refused to aid in defeating the warehouse bill. It then tells the directors that the Board of Trade as an institution is disgraced at Springfield.

The report closes by saying, "and this is a free country."

A fine certified copy of the report of the Board of Trade Committee on the elevator bill is in the hands of a responsible party and is easily accessible. Several copies of the report were made and a legislative investigating committee can easily obtain one.

A leading and prominent member of the Fortieth General Assembly, who made a good record, and is known to be an honest man, said recently: If the next Legislature decides to investigate the rumors relative to the elevator bill, it will probably summon some of the following prominent citizens to tell what they know about the elevator bill, anyway, what it is, why it was passed, and what was done to secure its passage:

Charles H. Crawford,  
Charles Counsellman,  
George E. Marcy,  
P. D. Armour,  
Armour & Company,  
Lloyd J. Smith,  
Charles E. Hill,  
L. O. Goddard,  
Free P. Morris,  
Charles A. Allen,  
James Brannen,  
P. B. Weare,  
W. H. Harper,  
John E. Thomas,  
Louis E. Perrotto,  
George J. Brine,  
Frank Murdoch,  
Deles W. Baxter,  
Wm. B. Northcott,  
David T. Little,  
Isaac B. Craig,  
P. T. Chapman,  
Caleb C. Johnson,  
I. P. Ramsey,  
And others.

The bribers and bootlickers of 1897 will be punished in 1899.

## SHOTS AT BEN.

The Aldermen Have Been Asking Questions Recently About the Big Gas Monopoly.

But Up to Date They Have Not Received Any Very Satisfactory Replies Thereto.

The Twelfth Ward Alderman Wants the Trust Dissolved, But Can Get No Satisfaction.

Alderman John F. Neagle, of the big Twelfth Ward, voiced the sentiments of nine-tenths of the people of the intelligent section which he represents, when he introduced into the City Council a short time ago the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Corporation Council be and he is hereby directed to institute proceedings to test the constitutionality of the act of the Legislature permitting the consolidating of gas companies, and also annul the act of consolidation of the Consumers' Gas Company, the People's Gas Light and Coke Company and the Equitable Gas Company, for the reason that these companies in consolidating under the name of the People's Gas Company have violated the express conditions against consolidation contained in the ordinances granting them the privilege to operate in the city of Chicago.

The streets of Chicago were never so poorly lighted as they are at present. The gas is of a poor quality and the condition of the gas lamps was never so bad.

People are complaining to their Aldermen that the Octopus, which is doing business without a franchise, is obtaining money it does not earn.

The following resolution, introduced in the City Council by Ald. Cullerton Nov. 28, was unanimously adopted: "Whereas, The city of Chicago is lighted in some portions with gas lamps, in other portions with electric light and in still other portions with gasoline and naphtha lamps; and "Whereas, According to the statements of the City Comptroller the use of naphtha and gasoline is equally effective and less expensive than gas, and the Comptroller, in order to lessen gas bills, has found it necessary to leave unlighted, principally in residence districts, large numbers of street lamps which are provided with gas caps; and

"Whereas, The city lacks funds for the payment of the cost of lighting the streets with gas, and heavy judgments in favor of the gas companies for lighting constantly accumulate against the city, notwithstanding the partial lighting with gasoline by private contract; therefore be it

"Resolved, That the Comptroller be and is hereby directed to advertise for bids for lighting all the street lamps of the city with either gas, electricity, gasoline or naphtha, for a period of one year, beginning Jan. 1, 1899, all of said bids to be required at the minimum or lowest price obtainable from any company, corporation, firm or individual in the United States engaged in the business of street lighting."

An ex-Cook County Senator who was a Senator in the last General Assembly, and who had much to do with the passage of the infamous gas consolidation bills, will make a good witness before an investigating committee.

While drunk and in the presence of several reputable gentlemen, this Senator gave away the whole nefarious business and particularized with reference to some of the bribe-givers and bribe-takers. He mentioned the name of a well-known Gas Trust legal light several times and made other statements, which three at least of the gentlemen present will swear to.

It is not improbable that the Senator himself may be induced to become a witness by the time the committee meets, although he is not of that way of thinking at present.

He is a lachrymose individual, and while Senator distinguished himself by the quantity of tears that he could shed while on a drunk. He wept copiously while explaining the methods of the Gas Trust and the effects of boodles in the interview referred to.

Most of the new members of the Legislature who have been talked with by The Eagle are brimful of anti-trust legislation.

A searching inquiry is to be made as to why the anti-trust legislation now on the statute books is not enforced. The act of 1891 provides that anything bought of a trust, whether air, water, or other material, does not have to be paid for by the purchaser.

The Secretary of State recently sent copies of this act broadcast and it has stirred up the new members prodigiously.

The trusts will suffer at Springfield this winter.

The following act now on the statute books, became a law and went into effect June 11, 1891:

**POOLS, TRUSTS AND COMBINES PROHIBITED.**  
An act to provide for the punishment of persons, co-partnerships or corporations forming pools, trusts and combines, and made of procedure and rules of evidence in such cases.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: If any corporation organized under the laws of this or any other State or country, for transacting or conducting any kind of business in this State, or any partnership or individual or other association of persons whatsoever, shall create, enter into, become a member of or a party to any pool, trust, agreement, combination, confederation or

understanding with any other corporation, partnership, individual, or any other person or association of persons to regulate or fix the price of any article of merchandise or commodity, or shall enter into, become a member of or a party to any pool, agreement, contract, combination or confederation to fix or limit the amount or quantity of any article, commodity or merchandise to be manufactured, mined, produced or sold in this State, such corporation, partnership or individual or other association of persons shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of a conspiracy to defraud, and be subject to indictment, and be punished as provided in this act. Provided, however, that in the mining, manufacture or production of articles of merchandise, the cost of which is mainly made up of wages, it shall not be unlawful for persons, firms or corporations doing business in this State to enter into joint arrangements of any sort, the principal object or effect of which is to maintain or increase wages. (Approved June 10, 1897.)

Sec. 2. It shall not be lawful for any corporation to issue or to own trust certificates, or for any corporation, agent, officer or employee, or the director or stockholders of any corporation to enter into any combination, contract or agreement with any person or persons, corporation or corporations, or with any stockholder or director thereof, the purpose and effect of which shall be to place the management or control of such combination or combinations, or the manufactured product thereof, in the hands of any trustee or trustees, with the intent to limit or fix the price, or lessen the production and sale of an article of commerce, use or

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